

(Heading – black bar w/ DMR Logo) AQUACULTURE PUBLIC HEARING

**APRIL 4, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT MACHIAS
116 O'BRIEN AVENUE
SCIENCE BUILDING, ROOM 102
MACHIAS, ME 04654**

The Department of Marine Resources will hold a public hearing on the application of Cooke Aquaculture USA, Inc. for a 27.33-acre, 10-year, aquaculture lease located on the northwest side of Big Libby Island, Machiasport, Maine, for net pen culture of Atlantic salmon. Other compatible uses of the site would be permitted. At the hearing, the Department will take evidence relating to the criteria for granting a lease as listed in 12 M.R.S. §6072(7-A) and DMR Rule Chapter 2.37, including the effect of the proposed lease upon riparian owners' shore access, navigation, fishing, ecology, and other uses of the area.

ALTERNATE HEARING DATE: If the April 4, 2017 hearing is postponed or cannot be concluded by a reasonable hour, the hearing will be continued on April 5, 2017 at 6:00 pm at the same location, and a notice will be posted at www.maine.gov/dmr/index.html, under "Meetings".

INFORMATION ON DMR WEBSITE: See the Department of Marine Resources' website, www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/index.html, for the lease application and DMR site report (follow links for pending lease applications). Under "Public Participation in Aquaculture Leasing," the following are posted: the lease criteria, hearing procedures, and suggestions for effective public participation in the hearing. For paper copies, contact DMR at the address below.

WRITTEN COMMENTS: DMR will accept written comments by mail, e-mail, or fax regarding the effect of the proposed lease until **5:00 pm on March 31, 2017**.

SPEAKING AT THE HEARING: Any interested person may attend the hearing and ask questions of the parties or testify under oath about the effect of the proposed lease. You do not need to be an intervenor to submit comments or testimony.

INTERVENING: You may testify at the hearing without becoming an intervenor. If the proposed lease will substantially and directly affect you, you can apply for intervenor status. If DMR grants you intervenor status, you become a legal party and will receive all subsequent correspondence and can comment on the draft decision. Intervenor application forms are available at www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/index.html under "Applications and Forms." Applications to intervene are due at DMR no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 17, 2017**. The Department will decide whether to grant intervenor applications no later than **Tuesday, March 21, 2017**. **Expert testimony and all exhibits to be presented at the hearing must be pre-filed by the applicant and any intervenors by March 24, 2017.**

Address comments, intervenor applications, and questions to:

Maine Department of Marine Resources

Attn: Aquaculture Hearing Officer

21 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0021

(207) 624-6567; 624-6577

Send emails to **both**

diantha.robinson@maine.gov and cindy.l.burke@maine.gov

For disability accommodations, contact Kathy Weymouth
(207)287-7578, TTY (207) 287-4474, kathy.weymouth@maine.gov

Authority: 5 MRS §9501 et seq. & 12 MRS §6072